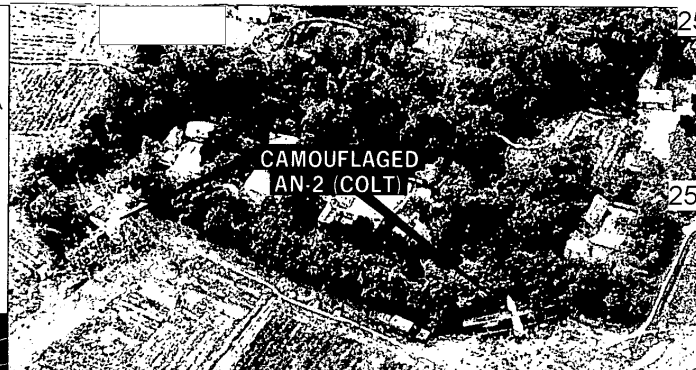




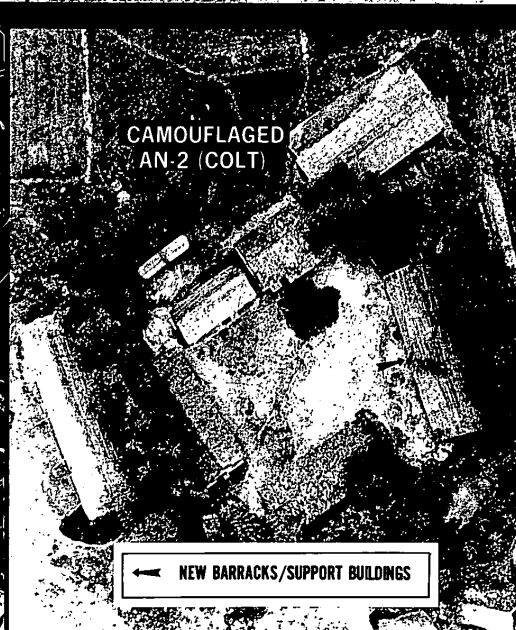
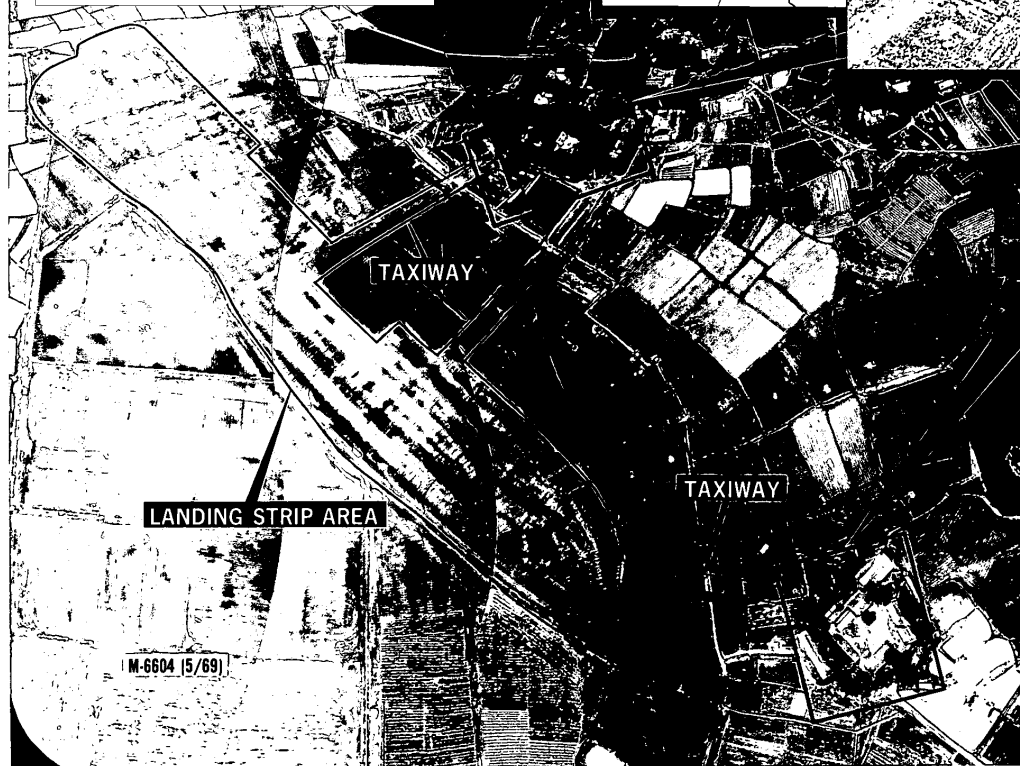
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# HIEP HOA LANDING STRIP NORTH VIETNAM 21-20N 106-02E

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HIEP HOA LANDING STRIP  
NORTH VIETNAM  
2120N 10602E



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1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BOARD DEPICTS THE EFFECT NATURAL VEGETATION HAS IN CAMOUFLAGING AN OPERATIONAL LANDING STRIP IN NORTH VIETNAM.

2. LOCATION:

0.4 NM NORTH OF THE VILLAGE OF CHUA THON, AND 19 NM NW OF HANOI.

3. BACKGROUND:

THIS LANDING STRIP WAS CONSTRUCTED



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NO AOB WAS OBSERVED AT THAT TIME.

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4. MISSION READOUT:

REVEALS THAT HIEP HOA LANDING STRIP, A NATURAL SURFACED, APPROXIMATELY 1670 X 110 FEET NORTHWEST/SOUTHEAST, LANDING AREA IS STILL SERVICEABLE AND ALMOST INVISIBLE SINCE IT BLENDS WITH THE NATURAL VEGETATION. THE TAXIWAYS TO THE AIRCRAFT DISPERSAL AREAS ARE ALSO SERVICEABLE BUT THEY TOO ARE ALMOST INVISIBLE. THREE HEAVILY CAMOUFLAGED AN-2 (COLT) AIRCRAFT ARE LOCATED AT THE TERMINUS OF EACH TAXIWAY.

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GROUP 1: EXCLUDED FROM  
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING  
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THREE NEW LARGE BARRACKS/SUPPORT BUILDINGS ARE ALSO OBSERVED IN THE VILLAGE WHICH IS AT THE TERMINUS OF THE NORTHWESTERNMOST TAXIWAY

5. REMARKS:

THIS LANDING STRIP, WHEN FIRST OBSERVED, WAS READILY VISIBLE ON HIGH LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY. SINCE ITS DISCOVERY IN 1967 NATURAL VEGETATION HAS GROWN ON THE STRIP AND TAXIWAYS THUS NATURALLY CAMOUFLAGING THE AREA. THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD THE STRIP HAS REMAINED OPERATIONAL WITH THE AOB COUNT CHANGING FROM TIME TO TIME. IN JANUARY OF 1968 THE STRIP WAS USED BY TWO AN-2 (COLT) AIRCRAFT AS A STAGING BASE FOR A NORTH VIETNAMESE COVERT BOMB STRIKE AGAINST LIMA SITE 85 (PHU PHA THI AIRFIELD, 2025N 10343E) IN LAOS. THE TWO AIRCRAFT WERE SHOT DOWN IN THE ABORTIVE AIR STRIKE BY ROYAL LAOTIAN GUNNERS. DOCUMENTS FOUND ON THE BODY OF THE PILOT AND OTHER INFORMATION INDICATED THAT HIEP HOA WAS THE STAGING BASE.



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MAP REFERENCE: AMS SERIES L7014, SHEET 6251 IV, EDITION 1, SCALE 1:50,000

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